



Our ref: eA198446
Obj ID: A5755797
Receipt No: 16878913

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

The Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Ms Centofanti

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act) received by the Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development on 8 November 2022 requesting access to the following:

“A copy of all correspondence to and from the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding sheep electronic identification.”

Timeframe: 21/03/2022 to 08/11/2022

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located ten documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

Determination

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Email from Livestock CEO to PIRSA:Minister Scriven dated 10/06/2022 re traceability in South Australia's sheep industry	1
1a	Attachment to Document 1 – Letter from President, Livestock SA to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development	2
2	Email from PIRSA:Minister Scriven to Livestock SA dated 11/07/2022 re traceability in South Australia's sheep industry	1
2a	Attachment to Document 2 – Letter from Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to President, Livestock SA dated 8/7/2022 re traceability in South Australia's sheep industry	1

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



3	Email from WoolProducers Australia to Senator the Hon Murray Watt dated 23/08/2022 re Traceability Reform (Sheep Industry)	1
3a	Attachment to Document 3 - Letter from WoolProducers Australia to Senator the Hon Murray Watt dated 23/8/2022 re Traceability Reform (Sheep Industry)	2
4	Email from Sheep Producers Australia to PIRSA:Minister Scriven dated 20/07/2022 re national traceability system for sheep	1
4a	Attachment to Document 4 – Letter from Sheep Producers Australia, Australian Meat Industry Council, Cattle Council of Australia dated 20/07/2022 re national traceability system for sheep	2
5	Email from PIRSA:Minister Scriven to Sheep Producers Australia, Australian Meat Industry Council and Cattle Council of Australia dated 20/07/2022 re sheep electronic identification	1
5a	Attachment to Document 5 – Email from Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 29/8/2022 re national traceability system for sheep	2

If you are unhappy with this determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman SA. Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). If you wish to seek a review, you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving this internal review determination.

For more information about seeking a review or appeal, please contact the Ombudsman SA on telephone (08) 8226 8699 or SACAT on 1800 723 767. In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Rachel Colegate on 8226 2931 or email: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

10 / 2 / 2023

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: Livestock Ceo <ceo@livestocksa.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 June 2022 2:54 PM
To: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Cc: Spencer, Meagan (PIRSA); President; pkeynes@livestocksa.org.au
Subject: Traceability in South Australia's sheep industry
Attachments: 22L0600 - Minister Scriven re Sheep Traceability.pdf

Dear Minister

Please find attached a letter from Livestock SA President, Joe Keynes about work Livestock SA in undertaking (in partnership with PIRSA) to advance the traceability standards of our sheep industry.

We look forward to working closely with you on this important body of work.

Yours sincerely

Travis Tobin
Chief Executive Officer
E: ceo@livestocksa.org.au
M: 0438 035 519



Livestock SA
U10 780-802 South Road, GLANDORE SA 5037
P: 08 8297 2299
livestocksa.org.au



Your strong and independent
voice for livestock producers

LIVESTOCK SA...

Unit 5, 780 South Road, Glandore SA 5037

P 08 8297 2299 F 08 8293 8886

E admin@livestocksa.org.au

livestocksa.org.au

22L0600

The Hon. Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries, Regional Development and Forest Industries
Level 10, 1 King William Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Via email: minister.scriven@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister

Re: Traceability in South Australia's sheep industry

I write to you to provide a formal update on the important work Livestock SA, in partnership with your department, has commenced to advance the traceability standards of our sheep industry, and to request open and regular consultation with you as this work progresses.

The highest standard of traceability in the sheep industry is important for both disease management and maintaining market access. This is pertinent for rapid responses to emergency animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), which as we know is now present in Indonesia.

The current traceability system for sheep (and goats) has limitations, in a large part due to the nature of the visual mob-based system. This was confirmed by a SAFEMEAT traceability evaluation of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) that identified the visual sheep tag system does not meeting the National Traceability Performance Standards (NTPS).

From our observations and research, Livestock SA considers that implementation of a national or state-based sheep electronic identification (eID) system is inevitable and will significantly improve aspects of traceability of South Australian sheep and goats. We have also identified there is a gap in knowledge of the supply chain requirements if South Australia were to implement an eID system.

Through the grant agreement with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), Livestock SA will undertake the following:

- Create a South Australian Sheep Traceability Strategy Committee to be led by Livestock SA
- Conduct state-wide consultation and develop a South Australian specific:
 - Business Case outlining the justifications for undertaking sheep eID in SA, which will evaluate the benefit, costs, and risks of this strategy
 - implementation strategy for a sheep eID program in SA
 - communication, extension, and engagement strategy for the implementation of sheep eID in SA.

This work will be conducted over the next year and will be used to inform industry and government decision making. It is our aim to design a model that reduces disruptions and maintains efficiencies for our members and the supply chain.

To realise the best outcomes possible, I request that you and your staff closely engage with us on this work, and I look forward to providing you with regular updates on its progress.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Keynes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Joe Keynes
President

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Sent: Monday, 11 July 2022 11:09 AM
To: ceo@livestocks.org.au
Subject: Correspondence from Minister Scriven - 8.7.22
Attachments: Correspondence from Minister Scriven to Mr Keynes - 8.7.22.pdf

OFFICIAL

Document ID: eA197453

Dear Mr Keynes

Please see attached Correspondence from Minister Scriven regarding traceability in South Australia's Sheep Industry

Kind regards

The Office of Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries
Level 10, 1 King William Street, Adelaide | GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
P: +61 8 8226 2931 | E: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au



**Government of
South Australia**

The information contained within this email is confidential and may be the subject of legal privilege. This email is intended solely for the addressee, and if you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy, use or distribute this email or any of its attachments. If you have received this email in error, please advise the sender immediately via reply email, delete the message and any attachments from your system, and destroy any copies made.

Document ID : eA197453



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Mr Joe Keynes
President
Livestock SA
Unit 5, 780 South Road
GLANDORE SA 5037

Email: ceo@livestocksa.org.au

Dear Mr Keynes

Joe,

Thank you for your email of 10 June 2022 about traceability in South Australia's sheep industry and the important work Livestock SA are embarking on in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA).

I understand at least two PIRSA representatives will participate in the Sheep Traceability Strategy Committee and report back to my office on progress of this work as it occurs over the next 12 months.

I look forward to receiving updates on the progress of this important work of Livestock SA in partnerships with PIRSA.

Yours sincerely

Clare Scriven

Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

8 / 7 / 2022

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: Info - WoolProducers Australia <Info@woolproducers.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 1:08 PM
To: senator.watt@aph.gov.au
Cc: agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au; gayle.tierney@parliament.vic.gov.au; dubbo@parliament.nsw.gov.au; Minister.MacTiernan@dpc.wa.gov.au; PIRSA:Minister Scriven; jo.palmer@parliament.tas.gov.au; vassarotti@act.gov.au; minister.kirby@nt.gov.au; andrew.metcalfe@awe.gov.au; david.hazlehurst@agriculture.gov.au
Subject: Letter from WPA President to Senator Watt
Attachments: 220823_WoolProducers_Traceability_Reform.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter from WoolProducers Australia President Mr Ed Storey to Senator Watt.

Australian State Agriculture Ministers, Andrew Metcalfe and David Hazlehurst have been cc'd to the letter.

Warm regards

Siobhan Wakely

Executive Assistant to CEO

P: 02 6110 2067

T: @WoolProducers

W: www.woolproducers.com.au

F: www.facebook.com/woolproducersaus/



----- IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by WoolProducers Australia. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without expressed permission from the sender. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. WoolProducers Australia is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. This notice should not be deleted or altered -----

23 August 2022

Senator Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Senator for Queensland
Via email: senator.watt@aph.gov.au

WOOLPRODUCERS
AUSTRALIA

Dear Minister,

RE: TRACEABILITY REFORM (SHEEP INDUSTRY)

I am writing on behalf of WoolProducers Australia (WoolProducers). WoolProducers represents the single largest body of woolgrowers through our fee-paying State Farm Organisation membership network and three democratically elected Independent Directors and is the only national organisation that can speak on behalf of the mainstream wool industry and represent the concerns and interests of all Australian wool producers. Our representation capacity includes the industry's commercial, superfine, broad wool and stud breeding sectors.

As an industry directly impacted by discussions surrounding sheep traceability, I am writing to state our policy on sheep traceability and to also raise concerns with how these discussions are currently unfolding.

WoolProducers note the communique from the last Australian Agriculture Ministers' (AAM) Meeting held on 20 July, 2022 stating:

"Ministers agreed in-principle to advance work on a national approach to Australia's livestock traceability systems noting the urgent need for a national mandatory individual identification system for sheep and goats that is practical to implement, industry led and cost efficient (following Victoria's earlier introduction of these arrangements). Officials have been tasked by ministers with further work on implementation options and funding arrangements – to be discussed between the Commonwealth, jurisdictions, and relevant industries, at the next AMM to be held in the coming weeks."

WoolProducers are concerned that the current messaging coming from both the Commonwealth and some state jurisdictions is focusing solely on the need to implement electronic identification devices (EIDs). This urgency seems to be accelerated by the current concern of the threat of foot and mouth disease.

Whilst understanding the need for robust traceability to quickly trace animals in the event of an Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) incursion, which is why WoolProducers are supportive of the implementation of EIDs for sheep, it must be understood that the application of EIDs without system improvements will not improve traceability.

On a recent industry trip convened by SAFEMEAT on 4 and 5 August, including senior DAFF representatives, it was made clear by a number of producers that different rules in different states is making the current system unworkable. Further, it was highlighted that information transfer on the database was less than perfect and needed a systemic approach to addressing the methodology used to ensure it improved to meet the necessary levels of compliance.

WoolProducers expects that all levels of government work together to deliver a nationally harmonised traceability system – as an industry we can be left in the position of having different approaches to sheep identification between states, as is currently the case.

It is for this reason that WoolProducers are committed to:

- *Supporting a fully integrated national traceability system that meets the national traceability standards*
- *To accept the implementation of individual digital/electronic identification of livestock only when the following system enhancements have been implemented:*
 - *The establishment of a nationally harmonised traceability system that operates according to nationally consistent business rules,*
 - *Investment into a database capable of handling all farmed FMD susceptible livestock species,*
 - *The creation of an equitable funding arrangement for both the establishment and ongoing maintenance of an enhanced system.*

WoolProducers acknowledges that work has commenced through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) on the program of work for industry-government co-design initiative as directed by AAM, however our concerns have been further compounded by the language that has been used in preliminary work, along with the red-meat focus of these deliberations to date.

As the only body to represent woolgrowers in these reforms it is important to clarify that it is our remit to advocate in the interests only of woolgrowers, ensuring that their needs are at the forefront of any consideration on this issue, specifically regarding national harmonisation, system effectiveness and equitable apportionment of cost burdens.

It is assumed that the red-meat (sheep meat and lamb) industry focus is a hang over from traceability being considered a food-safety issue, however, as has been agreed by both government and industry in recent months, biosecurity is now the driving force behind traceability.

It is therefore incumbent that the wool industry, and more importantly our woolgrowers are given equal consideration on this issue. It is worth noting, that generally speaking woolgrowers retain and trade their animals more so than our sheep meat producing counterparts so on probability engage in trade requiring higher levels of traceability.

Should you require further clarification or information on our policy position or other issues raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact WoolProducers CEO, Ms Jo Hall on 0488 554 811.

Yours sincerely



Ed Storey
President

Cc:

The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Minister for Agriculture
 The Hon Gayle Tierney MLC, Minister for Agriculture
 The Hon Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
 The Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Food
 The Hon Clare Scriven MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
 The Hon Jo Palmer MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Water
 Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment
 The Hon Paul Kirby MLA, Minister for Agribusiness and Fisheries
 Mr Andrew Metcalfe
 Mr David Hazlehurst

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: Administration Sheep Producers Australia <admin@sheepproducers.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 July 2022 7:34 AM
To: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Cc: CEO Bonnie Skinner; Patrick Hutchinson; John McGoverne; Annie Frisch
Subject: National traceability system for sheep joint correspondence SPA, AMIC and CCA
Attachments: 2022 Letter to Hon Clare Scriven MLC re National Traceability reform_SA.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear the Hon Clare Scriven MLC,

Please find attached a joint letter from Sheep Producers Australia, Australian Meat Industry Council and Cattle Council Australia regarding national traceability.

We look forward to your response and opportunity to provide a briefing and any additional information that may be required.

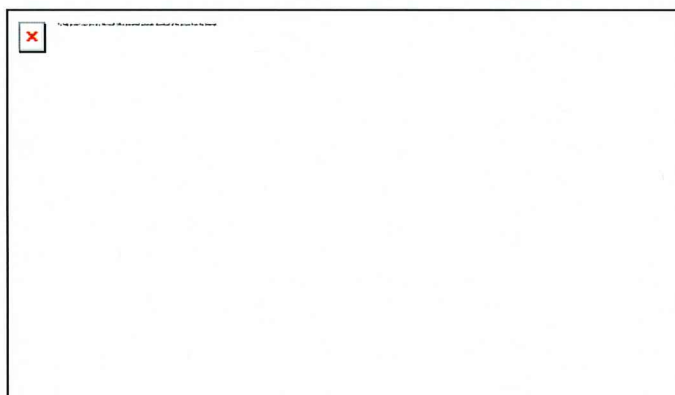
Thank you for your time and attention.

Kind Regards,
Ben

Ben Antenucci
General Manager I Policy

T + 61 (0) 438 028 391
E gmpolicy@sheepproducers.com.au
M PO Box 4225 Manuka ACT 2603

Ngunnawal Country
Level 2 Burns Centre
28 National Circuit Forrest ACT 2603
www.sheepproducers.com.au/



20 July 2022



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
GPO Box 1671
Adelaide SA 5001
Via email: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au

This letter has also been emailed to Hon Gayle Tierney MLC; Hon Mark Furner MP; Hon Jo Palmer MLC; Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC

Dear Minister,

Re: National traceability system for sheep

Sheep Producers Australia (SPA), Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) and Cattle Council Australia (CCA) are writing to highlight industry's concerns regarding the performance of the current sheep traceability system for sheep, and the urgent need for national traceability reform, to ensure that the system is fit for biosecurity purposes.

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is Australia's system for the identification and traceability of foot and mouth disease susceptible species. The system facilitates a competitive advantage in the global market as accurate and timely traceability is important for domestic consumer confidence as well as our export trading partners. The system reflects Australia's commitment to biosecurity, which is a key priority for SPA, AMIC, CCA, and our respective members.

As you are aware, the threat of disease incursion into Australia is increasing. In May 2021, a national biosecurity risk exercise indicated there is a 42 percent probability of a significant animal disease outbreak in Australia in the next five years. Since then, one of our neighboring countries, Indonesia, has had two disease incursions occur, with both Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) currently present – this has resulted in the risk profile of a disease incursion into Australia significantly increasing.

A LSD or FMD outbreak in Australia would be catastrophic to both the livestock sector and greatly impact the wider Australian economy. Specifically, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences ([ABARES](#)) estimated the direct economic impacts of a FMD incursion in Australia to be approximately \$80 billion in 2020-21. To mitigate and manage these risks as effectively as possible, Australia requires an efficient and effective national traceability system, that is well-funded and resourced.

Ensuring the effectiveness of these systems forms part of the commitments that all signatories of the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement ([EADRA](#)). EADRA is a unique contractual arrangement that brings together the Australian, state, and territory governments and livestock industry groups to collectively and significantly increase Australia's capacity to prepare for—and respond to—emergency animal disease ([EAD](#)) incursions.

Since 2018, SPA, AMIC and CCA have been working with the Commonwealth and State jurisdictions (through the industry-government partnership of [SAFEMEAT](#)) on developing reform recommendations for the Australian traceability systems. The report *Reform Recommendations for Australia's Livestock Traceability System* was delivered to the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) in March 2020 and provided a comprehensive summary of SAFEMEAT's key findings and subsequent recommendations, proposed implementation guidance, outcomes, benefits, and risks.

We are supportive of whole-of-system traceability reform, of which individual electronic identification (eID) of animals is a vital component. This includes investment into the database, sustainable and equitable cost-sharing arrangements, and establishing a statutory harmonised governing model.

It has been over two years since SAFEMEAT delivered the report to the NBC. We understand that the NBC will soon deliver a report for deliberation to the Agricultural Ministers' Forum (AGMIN) relating to national traceability reform and the implementation of eID for sheep. We believe now is the time for all States and Territories to undertake prompt, genuine, and considered reform of Australia's traceability system.

As the peak body for sheep producers, sheepmeat processors and cattle producers in Australia, we request that you support the national traceability reform recommendations to be tabled at AGMIN. The consequences of delaying this vital work will be wide-reaching. It is only through a level of cooperation and collaboration that we can strengthen the current system and evolve the system we need with the required level of urgency.

We would like to offer any assistance or briefings you may need from industry and request the opportunity to discuss our position in order to enact the recommended reforms. The complexities of livestock traceability dictate that an unprecedented level of collaboration and cooperation between industry and government, and between the jurisdictions and the Commonwealth will be required to continue this work.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss in more detail and thank you for your time and attention.

Bonnie Skinner – CEO Sheep Producers Australia ceo@sheepproducers.com.au

Patrick Hutchinson – CEO Australian Meat Industry Council phutchinson@amic.org.au

John McGoverne – Acting CEO Cattle Council of Australia policydirector@cattlecouncil.com.au

Yours sincerely



Bonnie Skinner



Patrick Hutchinson



John McGoverne

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Sent: Tuesday, 30 August 2022 10:16 AM
To: ceo@sheepproducers.com.au; phutchinson@amic.org.au;
policydirector@cattlecouncil.com.au
Subject: eA197670 - Correspondence from Hon C Scriven MLC
Attachments: eA197670 - Letter from Hon C Scriven MLC.pdf

OFFICIAL

Dear Ms Skinner, Mr Hutchinson and Mr McGoverne

Please find attached letter from the Hon Clare Scriven MLC.

Kind regards,
Sharon

Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Office of the Minister for Forest Industries

Level 10, 1 King William Street, Adelaide | GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
P: +61 8 8226 2931 | **E:** minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



The information contained within this email is confidential and may be the subject of legal privilege. This email is intended solely for the addressee, and if you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy, use or distribute this email or any of its attachments. If you have received this email in error, please advise the sender immediately via reply email, delete the message and any attachments from your system, and destroy any copies made.

eA197670



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Bonnie Skinner
CEO
Sheep Producers Australia

Mr Patrick Hutchinson
CEO
Australian Meat Industry Council

John McGoverne
Acting CEO
Cattle Council of Australia

Dear Ms Skinner, Mr Hutchinson and Mr McGoverne

Thank you for your letter of 20 July 2022 regarding a national traceability system for sheep on behalf of the Peak Industry Councils - Sheep Producers Australia (SPA), Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) and Cattle Council Australia (CCA).

The development of a national mandatory sheep and goat electronic identification system, in light of the serious threat of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), is a priority for State, Territory and the Commonwealth Governments.

At the meeting of Australian Agriculture Ministers on 20 July 2022, I am pleased to say, there was unanimous support for the development of a national, industry-led sheep and goat electronic identification (eID) system.

A national framework will be developed by federal and state agricultural departments with industry input for consideration at the next meeting of agriculture ministers.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) has provided funding to Livestock SA to analyse the benefits of an eID system to the South Australian sheep and goat industries and to develop an implementation strategy to transition the industry. This work will be conducted over the next year and will be used to inform industry and government decision making on mandatory eID adoption.

Livestock SA is currently in the process of forming a Sheep Traceability Steering Committee, which will include two PIRSA officers.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



Thank you for your offer of assistance or briefings to discuss your position on the recommended reforms of Australia's traceability system.

Once again, thank you for writing to me. I look forward to monitoring the progress of the traceability reforms.

Yours sincerely



Hon Clare Scriver MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

29 / 8 / 2022